



Update on RARA Programming

While the health of our neighbors remains our top priority, we know that hunger doesn't sleep and financial emergencies do not self-quarantine. We remain committed to our beliefs that everyone deserves nutritious food and warm, safe shelter. Therefore, we are continuing to offer emergency relief to the community in the coming weeks, and we are coordinating with our partners, both local and regional, to make sure programming runs as effectively as possible. As we do this, we are listening to public health experts to make sure we conduct our operations as safely as we can.

Our HelpLine (463-6642) will continue to accept applications by phone Monday-Thursday from 9:30AM-12PM and we will also accept initial requests by email (help@raralex.org).

In an effort to care well for our shoppers and our volunteers, we ask you to observe the following changes at RARA's Food Pantry and all Mobile Food Pantries:

- We are moving to a drive-thru model for regular pantry hours. Please follow directions from volunteers to register, select your food preferences, and receive your food (all from the comfort of your car).
- If you are at high risk for health complications OR are currently sick, please send a family member, neighbor, or friend to pick up food on your behalf. If you are unable to identify a proxy, please call (540) 463-6943 to discuss your options. We are asking high risk or sick volunteers to stay home as well.
- If you are relatively low risk, healthy, and able, please communicate your willingness to serve as a proxy to your family and friends. We may also need volunteers to make deliveries at a future date.
- RARA will have an online order form available by the end of today, and pick-up can be scheduled during non-pantry hours.
- Many of our regular volunteers are college students and community members with high risk individuals in their households. We are asking able community members to consider donating some of their time to help us keep our operation flowing. Our Volunteer Coordinator will be adding open shifts to our online volunteer listings as we identify new needs. You can use [GivePulse](#) or email her at volunteer@raralex.org.

Given that the situation is quickly changing, please continue to monitor our website and Facebook page, where we will post any future updates. We are meeting with our Rockbridge Hunger Coalition partners on an ongoing basis and will soon share additional information about our regional response.

If you have any questions, concerns, or creative ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out. Contact Jen Handy, RARA Executive Director, at director@raralex.org or (540) 463-6943.



A message to current volunteers:

RARA wants all of our volunteers to stay safe and completely understand if you are unable to volunteer at this time. Please let our Volunteer Coordinator know, if you have not done so already. She can be reached by email at volunteer@raralex.org or phone at (540) 463-6943. We will assume that all ongoing student volunteers are unavailable unless we hear otherwise. Every day, we see what this community can do, and we know that everyone will come together to get through this.